

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

SWF-02 FEA-02 DRC-01 /188 W  
----- 007153

R 081456Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4188

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E O 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD GATT CO

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN PROVISIONAL ACCESSION

REF STATE 149487

1. FELIPE JARAMILLO SUBDIR OF FORNTRADE INSTITUTE FOR TRADE POLICY AND GOC OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF PROVISIONAL ACCESSION MECHANICS, INVITED EMBOFF TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO GATT SECRETARIAT CONCERNING L/4039. MAJORITY OF QUESTIONS ARE THOSE CONTAINED IN REFTEL. INTERESTINGLY FIRST QUESTION ON SECY AT LIST, WHETHER COLOMBIA HAS ANY TRADE PROGRAMS CONTRARY TO GATT (NOT AMONG QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY US) CONSIDERED BY JARAMILLO TO BE TRAP SET IN ANTICIPATION OF NEGATIVE ANSWER IN FACE OF SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, SUCH AS COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS PERHAPS, THAT QUESTIONING COUNTRY HAS IN MIND.

2. JARAMILLO WHO HAS SERVED IN GENEVA VERY PROGATT BUT SAYS TRADITIONALISTS IN COLOMBIA CONTEND NONMEMBERSHIP HAS NOT BEEN HARMFUL AND WILL ATTEMPT TO BLOCK EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP  
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SHIP UNLESS COLOMBIA CAN SHOW SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS FROM MTN.

(HE OBSERVED THAT IN HIS OPINION MTN PREPARATORY WORK PROGRESSING SLOWLY.) WHILE ANXIOUS FOR BENEFICIAL MTN RESULTS HE ACKNOWLEDGES COLOMBIAN FOM TRADE REGIME UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATED AND OVER REGULATED. FOR EXAMPLE HE SAYS FOM OFFICE CLINGING TO CONSULAR INVOICE BECAUSE OF ITS REVENUE FEATURES, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZES IT AS ANTIQUATED SYSTEM. HE THINKS POSSIBLY GATT PROCEEDINGS, EITHER ACCESSION DISCUSSION OR MTN, MIGHT BE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN FOM TRADE INSTITUTE'S HAND AGAINST FOM OFFICE ON THIS QUESTION.

3. THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY THAT GATT FORUM INVOLVING EITHER COLOMBIAN ACCESSION OR MTN OR BOTH, MIGHT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THAT GOC NOT ONLY FINALLY ABOLISH CONSULAR INVOICE BUT ALSO STREAMLINE ITS BUREAUCRATIC IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSING SYSTEMS AND TRADE RELATED FOM EXCHANGE MEASURES. COLOMBIA'S CURRENT FOM EXCHANGE POSITION IS STRONG AND IMPORTS HAVE BEEN LIBERALIZED PARTLY AS COUNTERINFLATIONARY MEASURE, RESULTING IN INCREASED SLOWDOWN IN PROCESSING IMPORT LICENSES MERELY BECAUSE STAFF CANNOT KEEP UP WITH GROWING WORKLOAD. NEW GOVT TAKING OFFICE AUG 7 MIGHT WELL HAVE ENOUGH DYNAMISM DURING THE FIRST YEAR OR TWO TO EFFECT SOME STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THIS AREA, ASSISTED BY SUBTLE PRODDING FROM GENEVA. WHILE ONE TO ONE RECIPROCITY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED OF LDC'S IN MTN, WOULD NOT BE UNREASONABLE TO SUGGEST THAT COLOMBIA IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF ITS TRADE REGIME. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO OVEREMPHASIZE THIS POSSIBILITY AND THINK THAT STRONG PRESSURE FROM US, AT LEAST CONCERNING ACCESSION, COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. BUT REASONABLE URGING IN THIS DIRECTION MIGHT STRENGTHEN HAND OF JARAMILLO AND OTHERS IN GOC WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENTS. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE LAW, EXPORT LICENSES, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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